

**SURFIRAN**

# **DISCOVER PERSIA IN IRAN**

## **IRAN 7-DAY TOUR**



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 **SURFIRAN**  
TRAVEL BEYOND YOUR WORLD

# OVERVIEW

The treasures of Iran tour reveals and uncover the fabulous insight into life in modern day Iran. We explore one of the most surprising and fascinating land you have ever visited.

We begin our journey to Tehran. The city of colorful lights, intriguing sounds and never-ending motion. You're gonna love it! Tehran has grown into one of the world's busiest metropolis, with people and traffic coming and going as far as the eye can see. There is so much happening that you can be assured that visiting Tehran will never be regretted. You will visit National Museum of Iran and Golestan Palace in Tehran.

A day after, we take you to the airport in Tehran for your included flight to Shiraz. This day you will see tombs of Hafiz and Sa'adi which are two of Iranian most outstanding poets to feel the taste of Persian Literature.

Your Shiraz tour would start by visiting Eram Garden, Karimkhan Citadel, Vakil Bazaar, Saray Moshir, Nasir-ol-Molk Mosque, Narenjestan Garden and end by visiting Holy Shrine of Shah-e-Cheragh.

Next day we move to Isfahan to see Khaju and Shahrestan bridges, Chehel Sotun Palace, Naghsh-e Jahan (Imam) Square including Ali-Qapu palace, Vank Cathedral and Masjed-e Jame. But on our way to Isfahan, you will see the capital of Persian Empire, the Persepolis. Then Naghsh-e Rostam (Necropolis) and Pasargadae.

Then we drive to Kashan. In Kashan visit Fin Garden, Boroujerdis and Tabatabaei Traditional Houses. But on our way to Kashan, you will see Abyaneh village.

In evening, we departure from Kashan towards Tehran. Finally you will be escorted to the IKA airport for your departure flight.

# TRAVEL ITINERARY

## DAY 1: TEHRAN

After arriving at Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA) in Tehran, our representative will meet and greet you at the airport. The local representative will transfer you to your hotel to rest.

### ACCOMMODATION:

- Bahar hotel ([www.hotelbahartehran.com/en/](http://www.hotelbahartehran.com/en/)) or a similar one in Tehran

## DAY 2: TEHRAN - SHIRAZ (FLIGHT) 1H 20 MIN

This morning, we will take you to a World Heritage Site, the lavish **Golestan Palace**. Built during the Qajar Dynasty, that rose to power in the late 1700s, this fabulous walled complex is centered on a landscaped garden with tranquil pools. Many of the elements you'll admire today, date to the 19th century when local Qajari architects and artisans were looking to integrate traditional Persian style with elements of Western and Russian origin. The palace buildings are among the oldest in modern Tehran and they are still regarded as a crowning achievement of the Qajar era.

Then, we will walk around **Tehran Bazaar**.

In the afternoon, you will visit the **National Museum of Iran**, where you can see fabulous historical items from 5000 BC to the advent of Islam in Iran which shows brief history of our land.

This evening, we will take you to the airport to take a flight to Shiraz.

### ACCOMMODATION:

- Forough hotel or a similar one in Shiraz

## DAY 3: SHIRAZ

After breakfast, you will visit **Nasir-al-Mulk Mosque** (Pink Mosque) which is few steps far from Vakil Bazaar. It was built at Mirza Hassan Ali Nasir-al Mulk's command (one of the lords of the Qajar Dynasty); it took 12 years to complete it in 1888. Its interior reveals a magnificent masterpiece of design with stunning colors. This is a space where light and worship intertwine. The mosque comes to life with the sunrise and the colors dance throughout the day like whirling Dervishes. It reflects on the ground, walls, the arches and the towering spires. It even reflects on the visitors as if a colorful ball is hit by the first sun ray and has exploded into thousands of butterflies all around.

Continue your exploration in Shiraz at the beautiful orange-scented **Narenjestan Garden**, laid out in the 19th century during the Qajar Dynasty. Then, you will visit **Karim Khan Citadel** which was built during the Zand Dynasty.

You'll have time to explore and shop in the bustling **Vakil Bazaar**, home to hundreds of stores, beautiful courtyards, and even an ancient caravanserai.

You will end your day on a tranquil note in the lovely **garden-tomb Hafez**, one of our most outstanding poets to feel the taste of Persian Literature.

### ACCOMMODATION:

- Forough hotel or a similar one in Shiraz

## DAY 4: SHIRAZ – ISFAHAN 5 H 45 MIN (483 KM)

Today, we have a full day of driving to reach our destination of **Isfahan**; it is a good idea to stock up on locally bought and easily found dates and pistachio nuts for the journey.

We will have some stop on our way to visit **the Legendary City of Persepolis**, the former capital of Darius the Great which was founded in 512 BC. There was no more impressive construction in the ancient world than Persepolis, except perhaps the Karnak in Egypt. Darius built the terrace, *Apadana* (great audience hall), *Tachana* (a palace), and *the Monumental Staircases*; his son, Xerxes, added *the Harem and the Hall of 100 Columns*. Alexander the Great entered Persepolis in January 330 BC and then committed an uncharacteristic act of wanton destruction that still mystifies historians today, burning the mighty city to the ground. Though a shadow of its former self, the soaring pillars, terraces and sculptures of Persepolis still remain, but probably most impressive are the bas reliefs which line the site, telling the story of ancient governors and kings that came to Persepolis to pay tribute to the Persian Emperors.

From here, we will drive a couple of miles to **Naqsh-e-Rustam**, the **Necropolis** where Darius and his successors are buried. Carved into the side of a cliff, the site is extraordinary in its magnitude and sheer ambition and does not disappoint even after the impressive Persepolis.

Then, you will visit **Pasargadae**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, **the Tomb of Cyrus the Great** and former capital of the Achaemenid Empire. We will spend some time exploring the site and though not as striking as Persepolis, there is a great viewpoint where we can look over the site and the surrounding area.

Continue to Isfahan and check into the hotel.

### ACCOMMODATION:

- Setareh hotel ([www.setarehhotel.com](http://www.setarehhotel.com)) or a similar one in Isfahan

## DAY 5: ISFAHAN

As the 17th-century capital of the Safavid Empire, Isfahan was one of the world's greatest cities— architecturally striking, wealthy beyond imagine, and politically powerful with Europeans, Ottomans, Indians and Chinese coming to its court—the heart of a vast Persian Empire that stretched from the Euphrates River in present-day Iraq to the Oxus River in Afghanistan. Indeed, its grandeur inspired the rhyming proverb, *Isfahan nesf e jahan* (Isfahan is half of the World).

Your exploration continues in **Imam Square**. This 17th-century site is one of the largest public spaces in the world. Here in the square, you'll visit the 17th-century **Shah Mosque**, revered as a masterpiece of Islamic architecture and easily recognized by its magnificent tile-work and soaring cupola and minarets.

You will also visit **Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque**, also known as the Ladies Mosque, as it was built for the Shah's harem, renowned for brightly colored domed ceiling, where the light creates the image of a peacock. In the **Ali Qapu Palace**, you'll marvel at its beautiful music rooms and the balconies where Safavid kings would sit to enjoy the polo matches unfolding in the square below.

You'll end your exploration of the square by visiting the **Qeisarieh Bazaar**. With hundreds of local vendors that specialize in traditional arts and crafts, it's a wonderful place to shop for pottery, enamel, jewelry and delicately inlaid board games.

Next up is **Chehel Sotun Palace**. Set in a landscaped and forested park in front of a tranquil reflecting pool, this graceful pavilion was built by Shah Abbas II for entertainment and court receptions. Entering through a portico with twenty slender wooden columns, you'll discover soaring halls embellished with frescoes, paintings and mosaics; the Hall of Mirrors is especially breathtaking! In the city's Armenian quarter, you'll delve more deeply into the region's complex

history as you will visit several churches including the 17th-century **Vank Cathedral** with its lavishly decorated interior and unique blend of Islamic and European architectural elements.

#### ACCOMMODATION:

- Setareh hotel ([www.setarehhotel.com/en](http://www.setarehhotel.com/en)) or a similar one in Isfahan

### DAY 6: ISFAHAN – KASHAN – TEHRAN 4 H 59 MIN (459 KM)

Leaving Isfahan behind, we will visit **Kashan**, a town originally famous for its textiles and ceramic production, but now better known for **Fin Garden** and its extensive **bazaar** and **hamams**.

**Fin Garden** (A UNESCO World Heritage Site) is our first stop; a relaxing and visually impressive Persian garden with water channels all passing through a central pavilion. There is also the chance to buy some rose water, a local specialty, outside of the site.

Then, you will visit **Boroujerdi Traditional House**. It was built about 130 years ago in reign of Qajar dynasty (1857) by Iranian famous architect Ustad Ali Maryam. The owner was Haj Seyed Hasan Natanzi, a well-known merchant who mostly dealt with people of Boroujerd city. That's why the house is known as Boroujerd's House.

Afterwards, we will visit the bazaar area, a widespread complex filled with **hamams** and **mosques**; one hamam has been converted to a traditional teahouse where we will stop for those who need a break from shopping.

Then, we will drive to Tehran.

#### ACCOMMODATION:

- Bahar hotel ([www.hotelbahartehran.com/en/](http://www.hotelbahartehran.com/en/)) or a similar one in Tehran

### DAY 7: TEHRAN (DEPARTURE)

Our representative will transfer you to **Imam Khomeini International Airport** according to your flight time.

## PAYMENTS

- Paying at least 30% of the whole price will show your confirmation and then we are able to book hotels for you and you can pay the rest of amount one month before your arrival or you can pay it in cash in Iran.
- Due to sanctions against Iran, unfortunately, we are not able to accept credit cards, instead, you can transfer the amount to the account of our business partner.
- If the bank asks for the reason of payment (if any) just write travel and avoid to write "Travel to Iran" as sometimes it takes a couple of weeks to double check by corresponding banks.

## PASSENGER CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your tour for any reason including medical or personal reasons, cancellation fees will apply. Cancellation fee is applicable based on when we receive your cancellation request (see below). The remainder will be refunded within 15 working days.

### CANCELLATION FEE BASED ON TIME OF CANCELLATION

- 40-50 days before departure – 30% of the tour price.
- 30-40 days before departure- 50% of the tour price.
- Less than 30 days departure – 100% of the tour price.

## Quality Standards of the Accommodations

The local star ratings may vary slightly from international standards, where 4-star hotels are used these can be considered around the 3-star level.

## ESSENTIAL TRIP INFORMATION

Please note that travelers cannot use debit or credit cards while in Iran. You will need to bring all the money you will need for your entire trip with you. Please read through the money matters section of your essential trip information for further details. Please note that travelers cannot use debit or credit cards while in Iran. You will need to bring all the money you will need for your entire trip with you. Please read the money matters section of your essential trip information for further details is included on this trip.

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

While we always endeavor to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, please contact your guide or contact person directly.

In case of an emergency, you can reach us on the numbers below.

### **SURFIRAN OFFICE:**

+98 21 8884 3831 (Sunday to Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM. Fridays and Saturdays weekend.)

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